

**ASPIRA National Office  
Annual Report  
1985-86**

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Juan Rosario ED  
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?, NJ

The ASPIRA Association takes its name from the Spanish verb *aspirar*, which means "to aspire to something greater." It is immediately recognized by Spanish-speaking youth as a forceful reminder that they can change their lives if they work and strive for a goal. ASPIRA helps young Latinos focus on that goal and guides them in achieving it. These *aspirantes*—those who aspire to a brighter future—are the hope of the Latino community.

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## Message from the Chairperson and the National Executive Director

ASPIRA experienced exciting growth and change during the 1985-86 fiscal year, a fitting prelude to the celebration in 1986-87 of a quarter century of ASPIRA service to the Hispanic community.

A most important step, taken in anticipation of ASPIRA's 25th Anniversary, was the relocation of the National Office from New York City to Washington, D.C. The nation's capital provides opportunities for increased visibility among policy makers, exposure in international as well as national media, access to the legislative process, interaction with other national educational and advocacy organizations, and recognition as a leading influential Hispanic organization.

The year also saw the initiation of new projects with the generous support of major corporations and foundations.

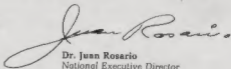
- The Ford Foundation provided a multi-year grant and a supplemental grant to initiate the ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program. To ensure that the program will reach the maximum number of Hispanic youth, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) was invited to participate through its National Educational Service Centers. This venture is the first such cooperative effort between two national Latino organizations. During the past year the program operated in six ASPIRA sites and three LULAC sites.
- The Dewitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Endowment Fund and the Anheuser-Busch Companies provided initial funding for the ASPIRA Institute for Policy Research.
- The NYNEX Foundation provided funds to the newly established ASPIRA Institute for Policy Research to conduct an assessment of the needs of the Hispanic community in the Northeast.
- The Inter-University Program for Latino Research funded a two-year study of the policy implications of the high Hispanic drop-out rate. The study is being conducted in five major metropolitan areas: Chicago, Illinois; Dade County, Florida; Newark, New Jersey; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and San Antonio, Texas.

During 1985-86, ASPIRA also established the Councils of Advisors for the Institute for Policy Research and the National Health Careers Program, a step that will guarantee these programs access to professional expertise in the areas of policy research and health careers education. The members of the Councils are leaders in the worlds of business, academia, science, medicine, and health care; several are Aspirantes who were themselves beneficiaries of ASPIRA programs.

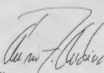
These considerable achievements, although impressive and deserving of our pride, do not tempt us into believing that our responsibilities as an organization are in any way diminished. Rather, it becomes more evident that ASPIRA's efforts to enhance the leadership abilities of young Latinos through educational opportunities and leadership training are as needed today as they were 25 years ago, when the organization was still just an idea in the mind of Dr. Antonio Pantoja.

Thus, as ASPIRA emerges from a most successful year, we look forward to celebrating our 25th Anniversary not only by recognizing our achievements, but also by planning for another quarter century of continued service to Hispanic youth, and through them to the entire Latino community.

We look with pride on our past as we plan with confidence for the future.



Dr. Juan Rosario  
National Executive Director



Aureo Andino  
Chairperson, National Board of Directors

## Mission and Goals

ASPIRA's primary mission is to foster the socioeconomic development of the Latino community. To ensure the success of that mission, ASPIRA has identified three major goals designed to prepare Hispanic youth to accept their responsibilities as adult leaders in their community. Briefly described, these goals are:

- to develop the leadership potential of Hispanic youth by encouraging them to become aware of the socioeconomic conditions, needs, and potential of their community and by fostering a commitment to dedicate their skills to the further development of the Hispanic community;
- to motivate, orient, and assist Hispanic youth in their personal, intellectual, cultural, and educational development through counseling and educational services; and
- to increase access of Hispanic youth to quality education and leadership training through research, pilot programs, and related advocacy projects.

These goals can be summed up in three succinct phrases: leadership development, educational achievement and intellectual growth, and research and advocacy. Within the framework of the three primary goals, each Associate has established program objectives that are responsive to local issues and resources.

During 1985-86, the ASPIRA National Office achieved important objectives in all three areas, reflecting and affirming ASPIRA's commitment to encouraging Hispanic youth to aspire to the highest level of achievement for themselves and for their communities. Although the ASPIRA Associates maintain a close relationship with the Association National Office, they are autonomous on several levels and respond directly to local needs. Most of the Associates have developed and obtained financial support for local programs to meet the specific needs of their own communities.



*Idis Nicolás, one of 1986 ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program National Interns, with her mentor, Paquita Vivo, President of ISLA, Inc.*

Collectively, the ASPIRA Associates compose the ASPIRA Association and they are joined through one philosophy and mission, three primary goals, and the same name. This Annual Report focuses on the activities of the National Office of the ASPIRA Association. Brief descriptions of the activities of local ASPIRA Associate offices are included, but because the overall programs vary from office to office, complete outlines of individual office activities are not included. More detailed information may be obtained by contacting the local ASPIRA offices listed on page 19 of this report.

## Educational Development

### Counseling

At each ASPIRA office, counselors work with high school and college students by offering career and personal counseling services, workshops, field trips, and conferences. The principal objective is to assist students in realizing their full potential through education.

### Scholarships

ASPIRA Associate offices assist students in securing financial aid to attend college. In addition, ASPIRA offices provide a limited number of direct scholarships to students. Over \$1 million a year in student financial aid is generated through ASPIRA offices.

### Student Access and Retention

ASPIRA's Associate offices provide assistance to students seeking admission to postsecondary institutions, including graduate and professional schools. ASPIRA also encourages students to remain in school through activities designed to stimulate hope and the expectation of success. These activities include workshops, college and career days, trips to college campuses, tutorial services, and preparation sessions for the SAT, GRE, and MCAT tests.

## Research and Advocacy

The Associates undertake advocacy efforts aimed at assuring that local governing bodies and educational institutions are aware of the needs of the local Hispanic community and are involved in meeting those needs. The National Office assists whenever possible in research activities designed to identify the needs specific to local communities.

## National Programs

### Leadership Development

#### Public Policy Leadership Program

While the nation's Hispanic population is increasing in numbers, its ability to influence policy decisions remains inadequate. Current statistics on the number of Hispanics in public policy positions clearly indicate that this serious leadership gap will continue far into the future unless a sustained long-term effort for leadership development is initiated among both Hispanic youth and adults.

The importance of a knowledgeable and committed leadership for the growth and well-being of a community has been recognized by ASPIRA since its inception, and leadership development was included among the organization's primary goals from the beginning. The Associates have consistently made leadership development a focal point of their overall program structures. The ASPIRA Clubs, for example, are major elements in ASPIRA's continuing efforts to encourage and develop leadership potential among Hispanic youth. Educational counseling programs established by the Associates have for years encouraged Hispanic youth to remain in high school, complete college, and succeed in choosing and attaining a career, all of which are essential elements in developing leadership capabilities.

The Public Policy Leadership Program is an effort to fine-tune existing leadership development programs at a national level and to focus on the most important aspects of leadership preparation: (1) instruction in the political and social complexities inherent in the area of public policy development, (2) opportunities for involvement in community leadership activities, and (3) hands-on experience through local and national internships with groups and individuals involved in public policy formation.

Recognizing that any effective program designed to develop leadership in public policy development requires a structure and focus that includes the three aspects mentioned above, ASPIRA launched this year

*The 1986 ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program National Interns. Seated left to right: Idils Nicola, Miami; Yvonne Marrero, New York; Lisa Bruno, Chicago; Laura Muñoz, Corpus Christi. Standing left to right: Melvin Castrillo, San Francisco; Felipe Ramos, Caguas, Puerto Rico; Axel Torres, Newark; Theresa García, Corpus Christi; Carlos Borges, Philadelphia; Richard Lucero, Albuquerque.*

volunteers, the national interns carry out integral assignments connected with the conference. The conference allows current and former participants, as well as a youth audience, to obtain first-hand experience in leadership positions as planners, organizers, speakers, debaters, policy makers, negotiators, and evaluators.

Through this process will emerge a young Latino leadership capable of participating effectively in local, regional, and national public policy arenas, thus ensuring continued development of the Hispanic communities they represent.

#### ***National Board of Directors***

Student members of each ASPIRA Associate's local Board of Directors are elected to serve on the National Board of Directors. They are full voting, active board seats and involve the students in planning and policy development essential to the smooth operation of the ASPIRA Association.

#### ***Other Leadership Development Activities***

When advocacy on the national level involves legislation or other actions that will directly affect Hispanic youth, ASPIRA arranges for young Latinos from around the country to provide testimony on the issues involved. This exposure to the legislative process further enhances understanding of public policy formulation.

In addition, student leaders from the ASPIRA Associate programs often are involved in the planning and development of special projects, such as national conferences and workshops, both within ASPIRA and in collaboration with other national Hispanic organizations.

### **Educational Development**

#### ***National Health Careers Program***

To further its educational and intellectual development goal, the ASPIRA National Office develops and coordinates national educational programs and provides technical assistance to ASPIRA Associate offices. In addition, the ASPIRA National Office develops

collaborative relationships with other educational agencies and disseminates relevant educational information to ASPIRA Associate offices.

The ASPIRA National Health Careers Program was developed as an initiative to address the urgent need in the Hispanic community for medical and health care practitioners. The program was launched at a local Associate, ASPIRA of New York, in 1970 and in 1974 was established as a national program implemented by all of the Associate offices.

The primary objective of the program is to increase the number of Hispanic and other minority youth graduating from medical and health professions schools and to encourage them to return and contribute their skills to the service of their communities.

The program provides a comprehensive, continuous network of services to over 1,000 students annually and includes the following activities:

- recruitment by means of outreach activities,
- counseling services,
- assistance with placement in postsecondary and health professions schools,
- dissemination of financial aid information,
- support services geared to retention of students in school,
- workshops on career choice and application process,
- review sessions for the SAT and MCAT examinations, and
- ASPIRA Health Careers Club activities.

In addition, the program offers workshops on securing financial aid and improving interview skills, trips to colleges and health institutions, and linkages with health institutions and key professionals.

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Public Health Service (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), the ASPIRA National Health Careers Program is coordinated by the National Office and implemented at the local level by ASPIRA Associates.

## ASPIRA National Health Careers Council of Advisors

\*Rolando Thorne, Choir  
Program Officer  
The Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dr. Pedro Arocho  
Assistant Professor of  
Family Medicine  
University of South Florida  
Medical Center  
Tampa, Florida

Dr. Rafael Collazo  
Primary Care Resident  
The Eye Institute  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Arthur Culbert  
Director  
Early Medical School Selection  
Program  
Boston University School of  
Medicine  
Boston, Massachusetts

\*Malin Fahf  
WJIT Radio  
New York, New York

María García  
President  
Cross Cultural Educational  
Pathways  
Washington, D.C.

Aida Giachello  
Mayor's Office of  
Communications  
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Gil Gutiérrez  
Vice President  
Cambridge Associates  
Washington, D.C.

Charles Ireland, Jr.  
Assistant to the Dean  
Temple University  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Alterman Jackson  
Director of Admissions  
Hahnemann University School of  
Medicine  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Leon Johnson  
President  
National Medical Fellowships  
Washington, D.C.

\*José Milán  
Miller Brewing Company  
Los Angeles, California

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Acting Director for External  
Programs  
U.S. Office of Minority Health  
Washington, D.C.

\*Emilio Morante  
Special Assistant to the  
Commissioner  
Commission of Public Health  
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Eric Muñoz  
President  
Association of Puerto Ricans in  
Science and Engineering  
New York, New York

\*Dr. Sandra Palreja  
Physician  
Bronx Medical Hospital Center  
New York, New York

Darío Prieto  
Director of Minority Affairs  
Association of American Medical  
Colleges  
Washington, D.C.

Dr. René Rodríguez  
President  
Inter-American College of  
Physicians and Surgeons  
Washington, D.C.

\*Aspirantes

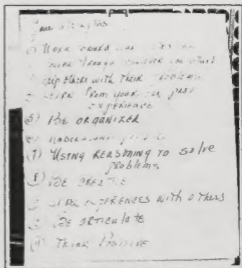


Aspirants learn to focus on their own potential and to cooperate with others in solving problems.

The primary objectives of the assessment are:

- identification of the most pressing needs of the Hispanic communities in the Northeast;
- generation of strategies for effectively addressing those needs;
- identification of resources available both within and outside of the Hispanic communities; and
- dissemination of the results of the assessment as an agenda for philanthropic agencies, public policy makers, and Hispanic advocates and community organizations.

Following the conference, a questionnaire will be mailed to a broad-based group of leaders identified with the assistance of the conference participants. The questionnaire will validate the results of the conference and identify differences between states and Hispanic subgroups.



A final report will contain a summary of the conference, a discussion of the results of the survey, and recommended strategies and priorities.

#### **Dropout Crisis Policy Implications Study**

The ASPIRA Institute is investigating the policy implications of the high Hispanic drop-out rate which has reached crisis proportions. In this two-year study, ASPIRA is examining the effects of the community, institutions, and student characteristics on Hispanic student retention in school. Analysis of the data will focus on the formulation of policy alternatives to promote student retention. The project is being conducted in five major metropolitan areas: Chicago, Illinois; Dade County, Florida; Newark, New Jersey; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and San Antonio, Texas. It is supported by the Social Science Research Council and the Inter-University Program for Latino Research.

## Corporate, Foundation, and Government Investors\* 1985-86

Amax Foundation, Inc.	The Manhattan Life Insurance Company
American Broadcasting Companies, Inc.	The McGraw-Hill Foundation, Inc.
Anheuser-Busch Companies	Metropolitan Life Foundation
AT&T Foundation	Mobil Oil Corporation
The Bristol-Myers Fund, Inc.	Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc.
The Sam and Louise Campe Foundation, Inc.	N.L. Industries Foundation, Inc.
Celanese Corporation	NYNEX Foundation
Colgate-Palmolive Company	PepsiCo Inc.
Colt Industries Inc.	Pfizer, Inc.
Culbro Corporation	RCA Corporation
DeWitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Endowment Fund	RJR Nabisco, Inc.
The Equitable	SCM Corporation
Exxon Corporation	Sears, Roebuck and Co.
The Ford Foundation	Texaco Inc.
General Motors Foundation	Time Inc.
Grow Group, Inc.	TRW Foundation
Gulf + Western Foundation	U.S. Public Health Services
Hilton International	U.S. Steel Foundation, Inc.
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	Union Carbide Corporation
Inter-University Program for Latino Research	Walgreen Co.
IBM Corporation	The Warner-Lambert Foundation
JCPenney Company, Inc.	F.W. Woolworth
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	The Xerox Foundation
K mart Corporation	

\*The ASPIRA Association believes that those who financially support its programs are making an investment in Latino youth that will reap benefits in the future not only for the Hispanic community but for the larger U.S. society as well.